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AP Literature 12

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Title Analysis Reflection

For the title analysis assignment I chose to examine the connotation and denotation of the title of the poem “Barbie Doll” by Marge Piercy. This assignment was something new to me because I had never written a paper about a poem in my high school career. At first, I did not know how to approach the topic. Poetry was a foreign topic to me. Naturally, I was intimidated. However, it was very comforting that we were allowed to pick a poem of our choice to analyze. It also helped that I found “Barbie Doll” to be a very interesting poem. This work proved to be a good choice because I was able to find a multitude of connotations and denotations for “Barbie” and “doll” within the poem.

Because of this project, I learned that poetry was not some evil thing that was out to get me. I never had an appreciation for this form of literature until this assignment. I was dreaded having to write about a poem. However, once I started to analyze “Barbie Doll,” I found that the poem was very interesting, profound, and contained many different levels of thought. I never dreamed I would enjoy writing about a poem, but I did. I find social expectations to be fascinating and writing about “Barbie Doll” allowed me to delve into what the ideal woman is expected to be. I honestly never knew poetry could contain such insights.

I learned to be more precise with my writing from Mr. Lane’s comments. Two of Mr. Lane’s comments suggested I reconsider my word choice and one comment suggested I change the words I included in quotation marks. My word choice was sloppy in some areas of my paper and I need to be careful with the diction I portray my idea; my ideas are often good, but I have problems with putting in words these ideas. Also, when using quotation marks to indicate a word is going to be analyzed one must be careful with which words are included in quotations. I put the under quotations when I did not refer to the in my paper. Mr. Lane’s comments helped me to focus on what is important to my argument and to express these points.